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THE MOST SUPERNATURAL SUPERHERO OF ALL!
GHOST RIDER™
CO-STARRING DAREDEVIL!
KAREN PAGE KIDNAPPED...
...DEATH STALKER ENRAGED!
AND NOT EVEN THE GHOST RIDER CAN STOP HIM!
TWO AGAINST DEATH!
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the Easy J.S.C.A. Way!

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Enroll now as a member of the Junior Sales Club of America. We'll send you a Free Prize Catalog, Membership Card, full selling information plus your first order of 12 boxes of lovely All Occasion Greeting Cards or sensational new Christmas Cards. As each order is sold, you may reorder additional cards until you've met your prize requirements. Cards are sent on credit. YOU PAY NOTHING IN ADVANCE.

Each box of 18 fine quality greeting cards cost just $2.00. That is about 11¢ a card. Think of all the people you know — relatives, friends, neighbors — who'll want to buy these handsome cards by the box. Many J.S.C.A. members have earned a prize in only a few hours. IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY TAKE AS YOUR PRIZE 70¢ FOR EACH BOX YOU SELL.

Just fill out and mail the coupon-reply card to receive your first order of greeting cards. You may take up to 30 days to sell them. If after that time, you have any boxes unsold, promptly return them prepaid by parcel post, keeping 70¢ for each box you've sold. Get the prizes you want the fast, easy J.S.C.A. way. Act now!

★ Join now — it costs you nothing ★

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FILL IN COUPON-REPLY CARD • CUT & MAIL TODAY • NO STAMP NEEDED

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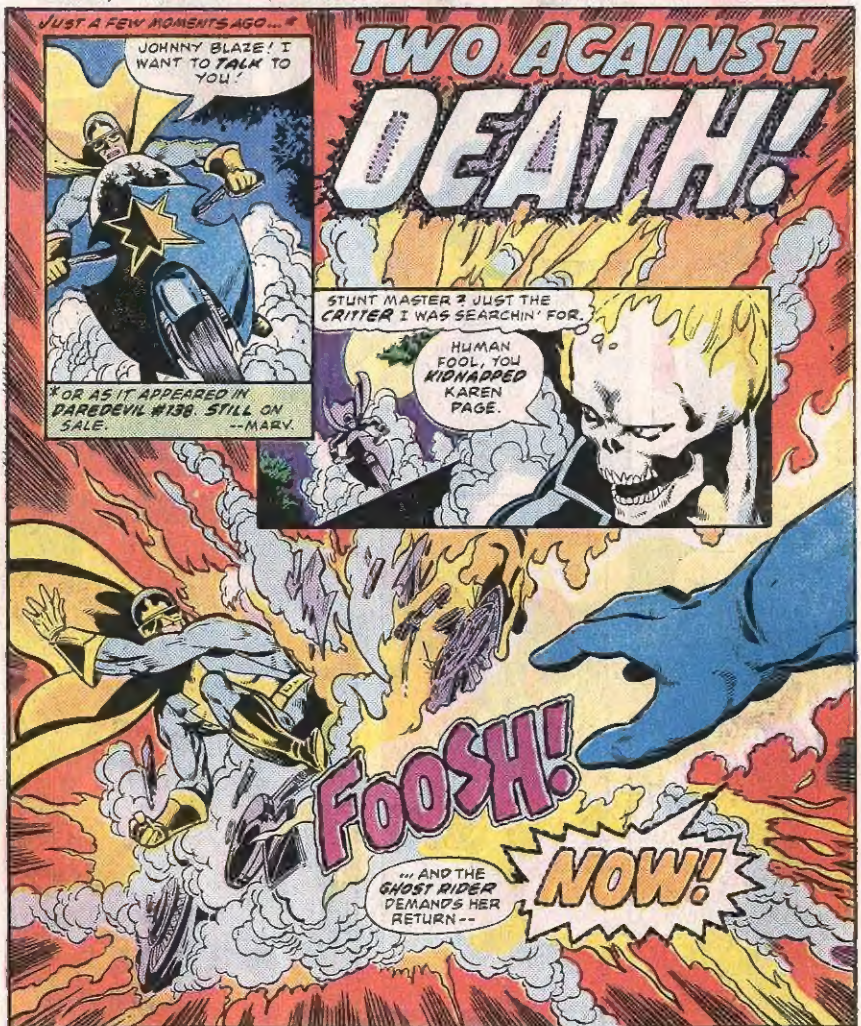
THE SAGA OF JOHNNY BLAZE: Once, not so long ago, he was the pawn of Satan. He has since been freed. But, for reasons he cannot yet comprehend, he still possesses Satan-spawned strength and the searing touch of hellfire. Whether these supernatural powers are a blessing or a curse, he does not know. Yet.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER!™

MARV WOLFMAN / WRITER/EDITOR | JOHN BYRNE & DON PERLIN / ARTISTS | DENISE V. WOHL / LETTERER | PETRA GOLDBERG / COLORIST


JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO...*
JOHNNY BLAZE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
*OR AS IT APPEARED IN DAREDEVIL #138. STILL ON SALE. --MARV.
TWO ACAINST DEATH!
STUNT MASTER ? JUST THE CRITTER I WAS SEARCHIN' FOR.
HUMAN FOOL, YOU KIDNAPPED KAREN PAGE.
FOOSH!
... AND THE GHOST RIDER DEMANDS HER RETURN--
NOW!

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YOU PRETENDED TO BE A FRIEND OF THE GHOST RIDER.
YOU USED YOUR POSITION TO STEAL THE WOMAN AWAY FROM ME.
W- WAIT, JOHNNY-- HOLD ON!
I- I WAS FORCED TO KIDNAP HER-- HYPNOTIZED BY SOME DUDE NAMED DEATH'S HEAD.
I TRIED FIGHTING HIM, BUT I COULDN'T. I SWEAR THAT'S TRUE.
THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE, TO BRING YOU TO WHERE HE'S KEEPING KAREN.
THAT'LL PROVE I'M LEVELING WITH YOU, JOHNNY.
YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME.
I WILL GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO PROVE YOURSELF, MORTAL.
BUT, SHOULD YOU FAIL ME, KNOW THAT THE GHOST RIDER'S VENGEANCE IS SWIFT--
--AND UNMERCIFUL!
DON'T WORRY NONE, JOHNNY. I'M TALKIN' STRAIGHT.
SAY, WHAT'S WITH THIS SPOOK ACT YOU'RE DOING?
YOU THINKIN' OF LEAVING MY TELEVISION SHOW AND BEGINNIN' ONE OF YOUR OWN?
MEANTIME, AT THE SITE OF THE GHOST RIDER'S DESTINATION...
I WAS RIGHT. I KNEW I SENSED KAREN'S HEART BEAT IN HERE.
MATT? YOU'RE HERE!*
* ONLY KAREN PAGE KNOWS MATTHEW MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL. --MW.
I-I WAS FRIGHTENED, MA--DAREDEVIL! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO WITH ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE, KAREN, I'M HERE WITH YOU.
THAT WILL NOT SAVE EITHER OF YOU, FOOLS!

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LOOK! IT'S A PROJECTION OF DEATH'S HEAD ON THAT VIEW SCREEN, DAREDEVIL.
YOU NEEDN'T BELABOR THE OBVIOUS, WOMAN. DAREDEVIL SEES ME FOR HIMSELF!
JUST AS HE NOW SEES ME GALLOPING THRU THE VIEW SCREEN AT HIM!
YOU ARE EXPENDABLE NOW, DAREDEVIL!
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU WILL DIE!
BACK OFF, KAREN, I THINK I CAN HANDLE ROCKHEAD MYSELF!
YOU'RE NOT KAREN'S FATHER --THE ORIGINAL DEATH'S HEAD-- SO I WON'T HESITATE TO SMEAR YOUR FACE OVER THE GROUND
YOU WILL NOT GET THAT CHANCE, SCARLET CLOWN!
DEATH'S HEAD WILL DESTROY YOU BEFORE YOU CAN RAISE A FIST AGAINST ME!
SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT HIS VOICE!
HOLD IT! HE'S NOT DEATH'S HEAD AT ALL. I KNOW WHO HE IS NOW. I KNOW.
THEN, SUDDENLY...
THIS IS IT, JOHNNY. ONLY I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT! DAREDEVIL'S FIGHTING DEATH'S HEAD!
I CAN SEE THAT FOR MYSELF, MORTAL. AND WHAT I THOUGHT WAS JUST A SIMPLE KIDNAPPING...
...NOW PROVES TO BE A GREATER CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY THAN EVEN THE GHOST RIDER ANTICIPATED.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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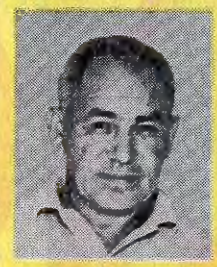
when I planned to **retire before fifty**

this is the business that made it possible

a true story by John B. Haikey



Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, less than $1500 starts a Duraclean dealership.) I could work it as a one-man business to start. No salaries to pay. I could operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead. For transportation, I could use the trunk of my car. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). And best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

"What is this wonderful business? It's Duraclean. And, what is Duraclean? It's an improved, space-age process for cleaning upholstered furniture, rugs, and tacked down carpets. It not only cleans but it enlivens and sparkles up the colors. It does not wear down the fiber or drive part of the dirt into the base of the rug as machine scrubbing of carpeting does. Instead it *lifts* out the dirt by means of an absorbent dry foam.

"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture fresh and clean. One Duraclean Specialist signed a contract for over $40,000 a year for just one hotel.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

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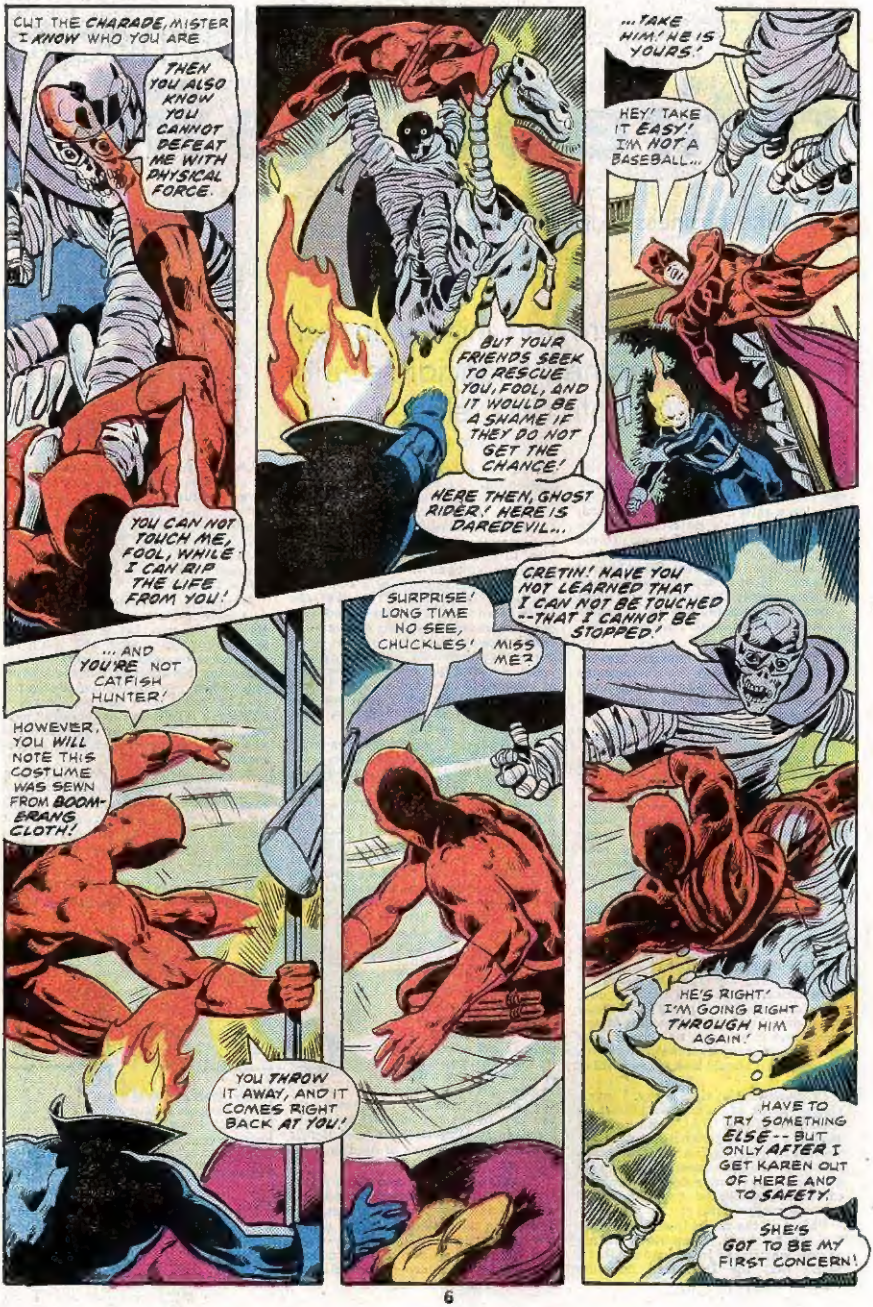
CUT THE CHARADE, MISTER I KNOW WHO YOU ARE
THEN YOU ALSO KNOW YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME WITH PHYSICAL FORCE.
YOU CAN NOT TOUCH ME, FOOL, WHILE I CAN RIP THE LIFE FROM YOU!
BUT YOUR FRIENDS SEEK TO RESCUE YOU, FOOL, AND IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF THEY DO NOT GET THE CHANCE!
HERE THEN, GHOST RIDER! HERE IS DAREDEVIL...
...TAKE HIM! HE IS YOURS!
HEY! TAKE IT EASY! I'M NOT A BASEBALL...
... AND YOU'RE NOT CATFISH HUNTER!
HOWEVER, YOU WILL NOTE THIS COSTUME WAS SEWN FROM BOOMERANG CLOTH!
YOU THROW IT AWAY, AND IT COMES RIGHT BACK AT YOU!
SURPRISE! LONG TIME NO SEE, CHUCKLES!
MISS ME?
CRETIN! HAVE YOU NOT LEARNED THAT I CAN NOT BE TOUCHED --THAT I CANNOT BE STOPPED!
HE'S RIGHT! I'M GOING RIGHT THROUGH HIM AGAIN!
HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE -- BUT ONLY AFTER I GET KAREN OUT OF HERE AND TO SAFETY.
SHE'S GOT TO BE MY FIRST CONCERN!

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THIS BATTLE HAS BEEN STALEMATED, DAREDEVIL! YOU CAN TAKE THE GIRL WITH YOU--FOR NOW.
BUT KNOW! I AM NOT DONE WITH HER... AND I WILL CLAIM HER AGAIN LATER!
FAREWELL, FOOLS!
I WON'T BE WAITING UP NIGHTS FOR YOU, SMILEY!
AND WHEN YOU ATTACK AGAIN, REMEMBER IT'S ONE IF BY LAND.
NO! YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE THE GHOST RIDER SO EASILY.
WE'RE NOT THROUGH WITH OUR FIGHT YET, VILLAIN!
HEY, HOLD ON THERE, FRIEND. LET'S GET KAREN OUT OF HERE FIRST.
YOU TAKE CARE OF THE WOMAN, HUMAN.
THE GHOST RIDER STILL HAS A MISSION TO PERFORM.
LAY OFF WITH THAT GHOST BIT, GUY. YOU'RE AS HUMAN AS I AM.
LEAVE ME, MORTAL. OR YOU SHALL LEARN HOW INHUMAN I CAN TRULY BE.
HATED TO KEEP THAT ACT UP WITH DAREDEVIL, BUT I JUST HADDA!
MAYBE HE WANTED TO CALL OFF THE FIGHT WITH THAT DEATH'S HEAD CRITTER, BUT I AIN'T DONE, YET!
I GOTTA GET 'IM FOR WHAT HE DID! GOTTA MAKE HIM PAY!
ALSO GOTTA PROVE TO MYSELF THAT JOHNNY BLAZE AIN'T NO LOSER.
THAT IF HE GOES AFTER SOMETHIN' HE GETS IT!
AN' THAT SLIMEY POLECAT'S THE CREEP I'M AFTER NOW!
AN' ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I GOTTA GET HIM AN' PIN HIS STINKIN' TAIL TO THE WALL.
THOUGH, FROM THE WAY HORNHEAD WAS TALKIN' BACK THERE, I JUST MAY'VE PICKED THE ONE DUDE STRONG ENOUGH TO PIN MY TAIL DOWN--PERMANENTLY!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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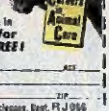

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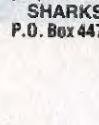

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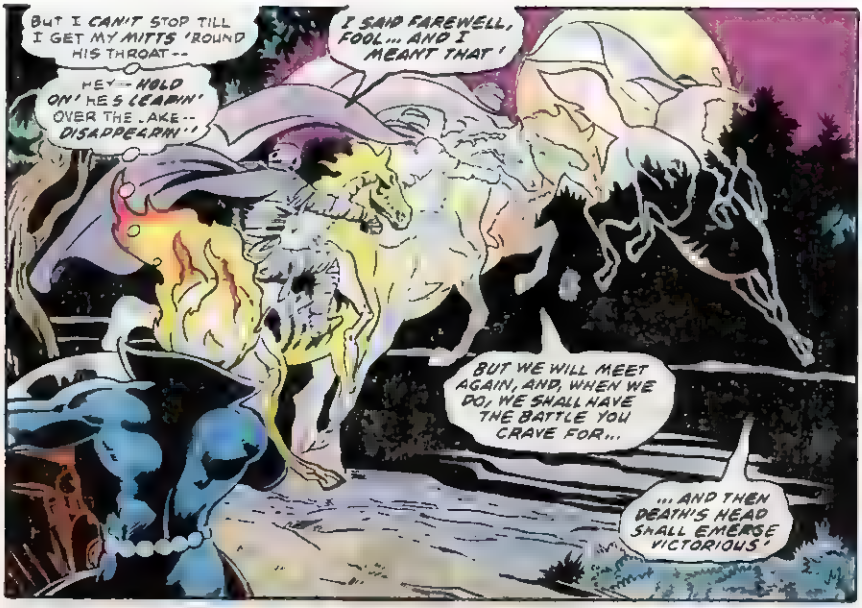
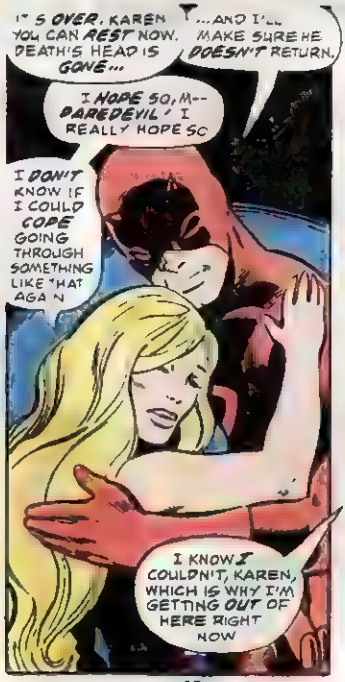

BUT I CAN'T STOP TILL I GET MY MITTS 'ROUND HIS THROAT--
I SAID FAREWELL, FOOL... AND I MEANT THAT!
HEY--HOLD ON! HE'S LEADIN' OVER THE LAKE-- DISAPPEARIN'!
BUT WE WILL MEET AGAIN, AND, WHEN WE DO, WE SHALL HAVE THE BATTLE YOU CRAVE FOR...
...AND THEN DEATH'S HEAD SHALL EMERGE VICTORIOUS!

HE'S REALLY GONE! AN' MY CHANGIN' BACK TO JOHNNY BLAZE PROVES IT
I REMAIN GHOST RIDER ONLY AS LONG AS THERE IS TROUBLE BREWIN' NEARBY
WH CH MEANS SOMEHOW HE'S LONG GONE FROM HERE
DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD SCREAM OR RA SE M'HEAD AND SHOUT THANKS


I'S OVER, KAREN YOU CAN REST NOW. DEATH'S HEAD IS GONE...
...AND I'LL MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T RETURN.
I HOPE SO, M-- DAREDEVIL! I REALLY HOPE SC
I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD COPE GOING THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE 'HAT AGA N
I KNOW I COULDN'T, KAREN, WHICH IS WHY I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW

I ONLY STAYED LONG ENOUGH TO TELL YOU I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID, AND TO TRY TO EXPLAIN WHY I DID IT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO. I KNOW WHAT DEATH'S HEAD'S POWERS ARE LIKE
KAREN, YOU'RE ONE IN A MILLION. THANKS!
I REALLY MEAN THAT-- THANKS.

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YOU MADE IT EASIER FOR ME TO GO NOW
BUT GO WHERE? YOU HAVE YOUR TELEVISION SHOW, YOUR CAREER.
ALL OF WHICH MEANS NOTHING IF YOU DON'T HAVE YOURSELF, KAREN
I'M GOING TO TAKE OFF, RIDE IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR AWHILE
AND, WHEN I GET BACK, IF I THINK I'M READY, I'LL START THE SHOW OVER AGAIN
I GUESS WE'LL SEE. BYE!
TAKE CARE, STUNT RIDER. AND I WISH YOU MY BEST YOU'VE PROVED YOURSELF TO ME
GOOD LUCK, ALL OF YOU
FROM AN OLD ENEMY, DAREDEVIL, THAT'S A COMPLIMENT I'LL REMEMBER A LONG TIME
AND TO YOU
STUNT MASTER TURNS AND LEAVES WHILE DAREDEVIL AND KAREN WATCH HIS RETREAT. HE PAUSES FOR A SECOND AS IF TO TURN BACK, BUT IT IS ONLY FOR THE BRIEFEST OF MOMENTS -- AND THEN HE CONTINUES ONWARD UNTIL HE VANISHES IN TO THE NIGHT
ALWAYS MY SAVIOR, ALWAYS MY KNIGHT IN SCARLET ARMOR, AREN'T YOU, MATT?
IF KAREN PAGE IS IN TROUBLE, YOU ALWAYS COME TO MY RESCUE
IS THAT THE WAY IT IS, MATT?
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT WAY FOR QUITE AWHILE. NOT SINCE YOU WALKED OUT ON MY LIFE, KAREN
ARE YOU GOING TO BRING THAT UP AGAIN, MATT? I DIDN'T LEAVE YOU, YOU REALLY LEFT ME
YOUR LIFE WAS ALREADY CROWDED... AND THERE WASN'T ANY ROOM FOR ANOTHER PERSON... NOT WHILE MATT MURDOCK WAS BUSY BEING MARRIED TO DAREDEVIL
LET'S FACE IT, THAT'S ALL YOU WERE INTERESTED IN THEN, MATT
KAREN, I...
NO, MATT. DON'T SAY ANYTHING. PLEASE LET ME FINISH
YOU MAY HAVE CARED SOMEWHAT FOR ME, BUT -- THERE WAS ALWAYS THE SHADOW OF DAREDEVIL BETWEEN US
AND, MATT -- FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE THAT HAS CHANGED.
BUT, SOMEHOW, I DOUBT THAT IT HAS

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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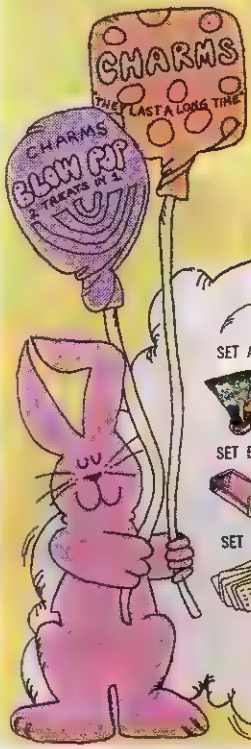

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YOU'RE RIGHT, KAREN I WAS WRONG THEN, BUT I HAVE CHANGED
I--I CARE FOR SOMEONE BESIDES DAREDEVIL.
BUT, I'M NOT WILLING TO STOP BEING WHAT I AM... AND THAT IS SOMETHING YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD
KAREN, I STILL CARE FOR YOU MAYBE NOT AS LOVERS CARE, BUT AS FRIENDS CARE
NO, MATT DON'T SAY IT' I UNDERSTAND, I TRULY DO
AND.
MATT, I HOPE YOU DO LOVE SOMEONE ELSE, AND I HOPE SHE LOVES YOU
BECAUSE I DO LOVE YOU-- TOO MUCH FOR WHAT WE ONCE MEANT TO EACH OTHER TO EVER SEE YOU HURT
YOU DESERVE THE BEST, MATT. YOU ALWAYS HAVE.
KAREN, WHEREVER YOU ARE, WHENEVER IT MAY BE, IF YOU NEED ME, MATT OR DAREDEVIL, I'LL BE THERE BESIDE YOU
HEY, YOU GUYS, I--
OOOPS! HAVE I INTERRUPTED SOMETHIN', FRIENDS?
NO, JOHNNY, WE WERE JUST SAYING IT WAS GOOD SEEING EACH OTHER AGAIN
I KNEW DAREDEVIL WHEN I LIVED IN NEW YORK!
DAREDEVIL, THIS IS JOHNNY BLAZE, THE STUNTMAN ON MY T.V. SHOW
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, JOHNNY. I HEARD ABOUT YOU, AND YOUR WORK WITH THE CHAMPIONS.
THANKS, PARDNER 'CAUSE I'VE HEARD PLENTY 'BOUT YOU'
BUT SEEMS WE BOTH NEED SOME PRACTICE, 'CAUSE THAT HORSE AN' RIDER OUTDISTANCED ME LIKE I WAS NAILED TO THE GROUND
HE JUST UP AND VANISHED ON ME

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I KNOW, I EXPECTED HIM TO DO THAT YOU SEE, WE'VE FOUGHT BEFORE
WE DO NOTH'NG JOHNNY I CAME HERE TO HELP FIND KAREN, AND I HAVE
SO, WHAT DO WE DO NOW 'SIDES TWIDDLIN' OUR THUMBS
NOW I'VE GOT TO SETTLE A SCORE WITH OUR VANISHING FRIEND AND EXPOSE HIM FOR WHAT HE TRULY IS
AND I USSALLY FIGHT ALONE IF YOU DON'T MIND
I DO MIND, PARDNER WE BATTLE TOGETHER. BUT ONLY AFTER I TAKE CARE A' SOME PRIVATE BUSINESS
"WITH A PRETTY LITTLE FILLY BY THE NAME O' ROXANNE SIMPSON
ROXY..
YOU'VE FOUND KAREN, JOHNNY? I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES
I CAN'T KEEP TOO MANY SURPRISES FROM YOU, CAN I, HONEY?
NOT MANY, LOVE
SEE, JOHNNY, I TOLD YOU THINGS WOULD BE GOING WELL FOR YOU NOW
THAT'LL BE THE DAY, ROXY. I'M THE ORIGINAL LOSER.
HECK, I'VE DONE THINGS THAT'LL MAKE ME DAMNED A THOUSAND TIMES OVER
INCLUD'NG WORK'NG RIGHT ALONGSIDE THE DEVIL FOR A SPELL
NO, LADY, THIS HOMBRE'S LUCK IS NEVER GONNA CHANGE LESS IT GOES EVEN FURTHER DOWNHILL.
AN' MAYBE YOU SHOULD REALIZE THAT AN' FIND YOURSELF A REAL GUY TO SETTLE DOWN WITH
YOU'RE TOO GOOD FOR A HARD LUCK CASE, ROXY MUCH TOO GOOD FOR THE LIKES OF JOHNNY BLAZE
I-I DON'T WANT ANOTHER MAN, JOHNNY I DON'T WANT TO SETTLE DOWN W TH YOUR BAS C N NE-TO-FIVER
I WANT YOU, JOHNNY, AND THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WHO WILL DO
COME TO ME, JOHNNY PLEASE COME TO ME NOW

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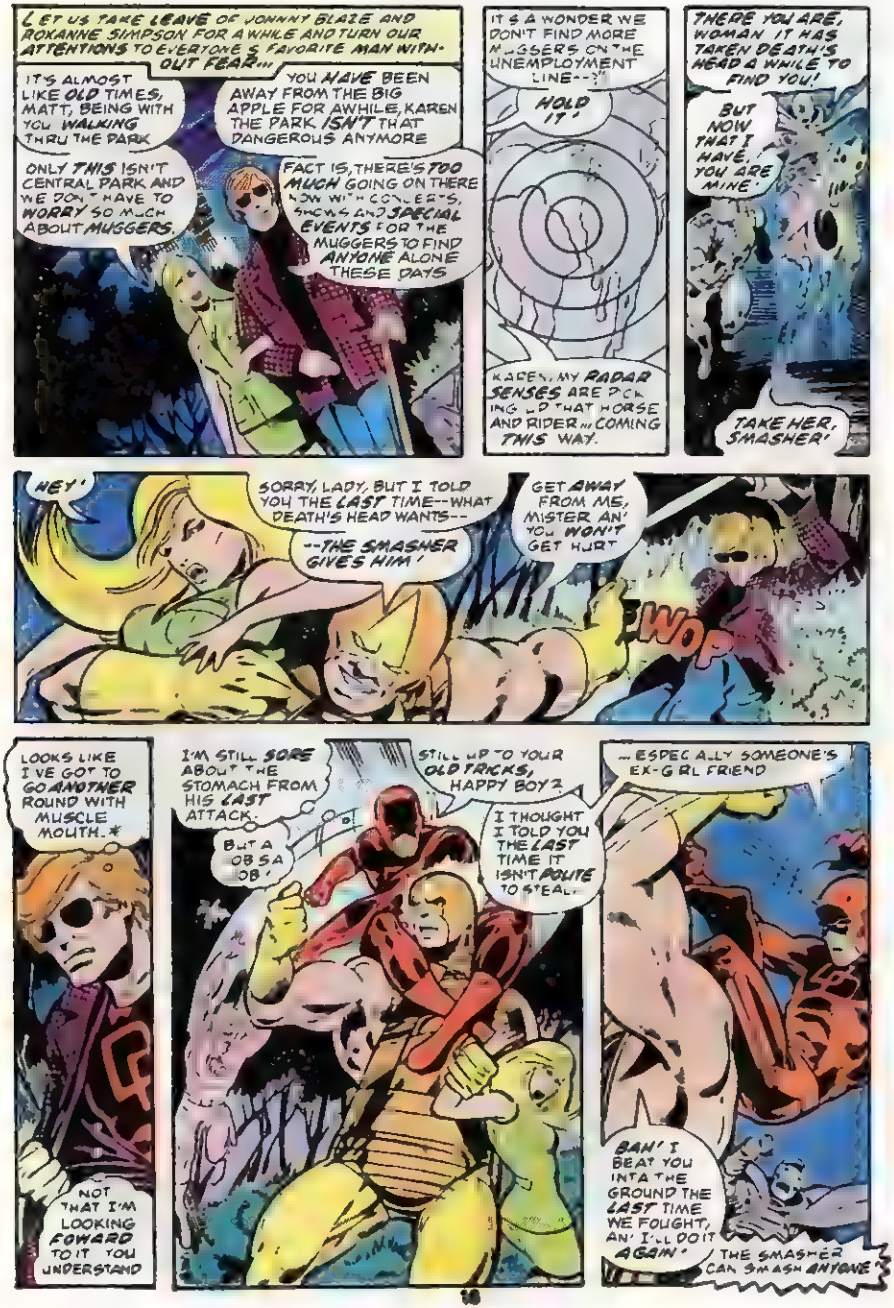
LET US TAKE LEAVE OF JOHNNY BLAZE AND ROXANNE SIMPSON FOR A WHILE AND TURN OUR ATTENTIONS TO EVERYONE'S FAVORITE MAN WITHOUT FEAR...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE OLD TIMES, MATT, BEING WITH YOU WALKING THRU THE PARK
YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM THE BIG APPLE FOR AWHILE, KAREN THE PARK ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS ANYMORE
ONLY THIS ISN'T CENTRAL PARK AND WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT MUGGERS.
FACT IS, THERE'S TOO MUCH GOING ON THERE NOW WITH CONCERTS, SHOWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE MUGGERS TO FIND ANYONE ALONE THESE DAYS
IT'S A WONDER WE DON'T FIND MORE MUGGERS ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINE--?
HOLD IT!
KAREN, MY RADAR SENSES ARE PICKING UP THAT HORSE AND RIDER ARE COMING THIS WAY.
THERE YOU ARE, WOMAN. IT HAS TAKEN DEATH'S HEAD A WHILE TO FIND YOU!
BUT NOW THAT I HAVE, YOU ARE MINE!
TAKE HER, SMASHER!
HEY!
SORRY, LADY, BUT I TOLD YOU THE LAST TIME--WHAT DEATH'S HEAD WANTS--
--THE SMASHER GIVES HIM!
GET AWAY FROM ME, MISTER, AN' YOU WON'T GET HURT
WOP
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT TO GO ANOTHER ROUND WITH MUSCLE MOUTH.*
NOT THAT I'M LOOKING FOWARD TO IT, YOU UNDERSTAND
I'M STILL SORE ABOUT THE STOMACH FROM HIS LAST ATTACK
BUT A OB SA OB!
STILL UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS, HAPPY BOY?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU THE LAST TIME IT ISN'T POLITE TO STEAL
--ESPECIALLY SOMEONE'S EX-GIRLFRIEND
BAH! I BEAT YOU INTA THE GROUND THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, AN' I'LL DO IT AGAIN!
THE SMASHER CAN SMASH ANYONE!

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WELL, MAKE THAT ALMOST ANYONE SMALLER
HEY! YOU TRIPPED ME
I'M FALLIN' BACK!
YOU HAVE FORCED DEATH'S HEAD TO ENTER THIS BATTLE, DAREDEVIL!
YOU HAVE FORCED ME TO USE MY FULL POWERS ON YOU!
OBSERVE AS I REMOVE THE BANDAGES FROM MY HAND...
HEY, YOU PROMISED ME I COULD TAKE THIS CREEP MYSELF.
YOU PROMISED ME I COULD SMASH 'IM FOR FUN.
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP, DEATH'S HEAD! I CAN CLOBBER 'M ALONE
BROTHER, YOU NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET
YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO FIGHT WITH YOUR HEAD AND NOT JUST YOUR MUSCLE
WHAAAA? YOU'RE FLIPPIN' ME OVER...
AH, YOU'RE CATCHING ON, BRIGHT EYES!
KEEP THIS UP AND YOU'LL SOON BE THINKING RIGHT ALONGSIDE THE NEANDERTHALS!
FOOL! I SAID I WOULD END THIS FIGHT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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GHOST WRITERS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE, N.Y.C. 10022

Gentlemen,

For some time now I've been fascinated by your Ghost Rider without really knowing why. I mean, I've been around since the very first story, way back in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #5, and I've faithfully bought every issue—but until just recently, I couldn't even come close to guessing what it was about the character that grabbed me.

Then I opened up GHOST RIDER #18.

When I saw that splash-page, something clicked. That page just seemed to tell it all...Johnny Blaze, the cycle-jock of the New West, thundering across the deserts of his own private hell! Johnny Blaze, the Ghost Rider! The man who beat the Devil!

Despite what that demonic "Black Widow" might have said, Johnny is very much a hero. And I've got a feeling that once this latest trilogy is over, the Ghost Rider is gonna come thundering out of that desert and show us just what superheroing is all about!

Thank you, gents! And a very special thanks to Mr. Frank Robbins, for making it all work so well.

David LaSalle
Enfield, CT 06082

Dear Marvel,

"The Salvation Run!" in GHOST RIDER #18—like "Prelude to a Private Armageddon!" of the previous issue—was a disappointment. I thought we were all through with that Satanic stuff, and that the Ghost Rider would finally start living up to his title of "The Most Supernatural *Superhero* of All!" But, no. First, you offend my sense of reality with that recurring "friend" (what kind of hero can Blaze expect to be, if he has to be "saved" every issue?). And then, you had to bring in Daimon Hellstrom, the pseudo-demonic Challenger, a possession, and some sort of desert netherworld. C'mon! Haven't we had enough of this? Let's see Blaze *use* some of that Satan-spawned strength! Let's see some tricks from that now-flaming Skull-cycle! And let's see some villains who don't come on panel reeking of brimstone!

Okay, okay! Sure, there were some good things about GHOST RIDER #18, most notably the art. Frank Robbins draws the best Ghost Rider since Mike Ploog. Is there any chance of getting Frank to ink the job himself? I've always thought that the best inker for Robbins is Robbins, bar none!

And, if that last page is any indication of what's coming up in the future, you might just make one happy fan out of me yet! Death's-Head was one of my all-time favorite DAREDEVIL villains. If you can figure out some way to bring him back—without making him the ghost or spirit or whatever of Karen Page's father, mind you—then you've got my full attention.

Lou Fetters
Plainfield, IN 46168

And you've got ours, Lou! As you now no doubt know from reading our last landmark issue, the Devil is gone from these pages for good, and we're going to get down to some trail-blazin' action that should keep both you and David LaSalle—and, we hope, a few hundred thousand other Marvelites—ecstatically happy.

And we're especially happy to hear all of those kind words about Frank Robbins, who has to be one of the nicest, fastest, and bestest comics craftsmen to ever walk in the door of the Bullpen. And if you don't believe us, then just ask Rascally Roy Thomas why he's keeping Frank so busy with the monthly art chores on THE INVADERS...so busy that, alas, Mr. R can no longer fit GHOST RIDER into his schedule.

But, hey, what do you think of our DAREDEVIL/GHOST RIDER crossover and the artful endeavors of Jocular John Byrne? After all of these many years of countless crossovers, we thought it might be a real kick to have both ends of a two-title team-up handled by the same artist.

(Yeah, we know, the recent Dracula/Dr. Strange encounter was handled by the same art team. But that doesn't count! Gentleman Gene Colan and Titanic Tom Palmer were *already* handling the art on both books!)

Dear Ghost Writers,

Could you be so kind as to explain a thing or two about your cyclist with the fiery locks? You see, I'm rather new to this mag. As a matter of fact, I only picked up on it a few issues ago, upon hearing from a friend that Karen Page had become a supporting character. (And, my! How sweet, demure Karen has changed since I saw her last! But then, haven't we all?)

The thing I'm most concerned with is the matter of Ghost Rider's—or rather, Johnny Blaze's—speech patterns. I notice that he keeps calling himself a "cowboy." Well, all right. I'll accept that. But what bothers me is that on occasion some totally bizarre expression will creep into his dialogue. Like "owlhoot." I get the feeling that you want us to believe that Johnny spent his younger days "out west." Well, I've lived "out here" for all of my 22 years, and I have never, repeat *never*, heard anyone called an owlhoot...even if they were one. Look, GHOST RIDER is not one of your western titles. People in my part of the world just don't talk like that! Honestly!

Oh, well, I suppose it could be worse. At least Johnny has never called anyone a "rannie."

Janice Henry
Show Low, AZ 85901

Sorry if we've offended, Janice. That cowboy tag was one that Johnny just sort of picked up while biking through the desert regions of issues past. Showman that he is, Mr. Blaze started identifying with the part. Which is our sneaky way of admitting that the "owlhootisms" popped up on occasion thanks to our red-faced writers—most of whom hail from points considerably east of St. Louis and are obviously the drugstore variety of cowboys. So, we'll take your plea under consideration. Be advised, though, that once a major character's speech pattern is established, it's pretty hard to change. Of course, if Marveldom Assembled should agree with you, Janice, we'll drop the drawl faster than you can say Harley-Davidson! And in the meantime, we promise to do penance by not watching McCLOUD for at least a month!

'Er ya go!

Dear Bullpen,

Holy Crow! If Death's-Head is coming, can Daredevil be far behind?

Steve Wasson
Daytona Beach, FL 32018

Of course not, Steve...as DD #138 and this very issue have shown.

And with that question taken care of, it's time to adjourn to the little, yellow box to find out what's happening...

NEXT ISSUE: More power, action, and thrills than ever before from the new, new GHOST RIDER team—*Gerry Conway* and *Gil Kane*! And it all starts on page one, when enters...the Gladiator! But what is the Gladiator doing in a Hollywood studio? What is he after? And how does the Eel figure in all of this? Ah, but those are only a few of the mysteries awaiting you in GHOST RIDER #21. No lie, people, you're gonna see the power of Ghost Rider as it's never been seen before! So be here in sixty days. And in the meantime, drive carefully!

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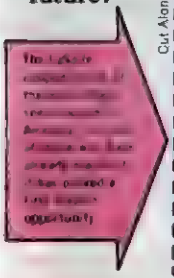

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AWAY FROM ME!
HUH? Y-YOU TOUCHED ME... AN' SUDDENLY MY ARM'S ALL COLD!
I--I'M HURTIN'--HURTIN' REAL BAD. WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?
I--I CAN'T FIGHT... CAN'T--
FWUM
YOU'VE KILLED HIM. THE SMASHER DIED FROM YOUR TOUCH.
WHICH ONLY REMOVES ANY DOUBT I MAY HAVE HAD ABOUT YOUR TRUE IDENTITY
HE WAS ONLY A MENIAL, DAREDEVIL. HIS DEATH MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
BUT NOW THAT MY TRUE SELF HAS BEEN REVEALED, I NEED WEAR THESE RAGS NO LONGER! THEY HAVE SERVED THEIR PURPOSE IN MY PRETENDING TO BE KAREN PAGE'S FATHER
NOW, WHEN I FACE HER AGAIN, SHE WILL GREET ME WITH MY TRUE NAME-
--DEATH STALKER!*
WHOSE VERY TOUCH BRINGS INSTANT AND MOST PAINFUL DEATH TO ONE AND ALL!
ARE YOU READY TO FEEL MY TOUCH, DAREDEVIL? ARE YOU READY TO--
-DIE!
*LAST APPEARED DD #128 --MW

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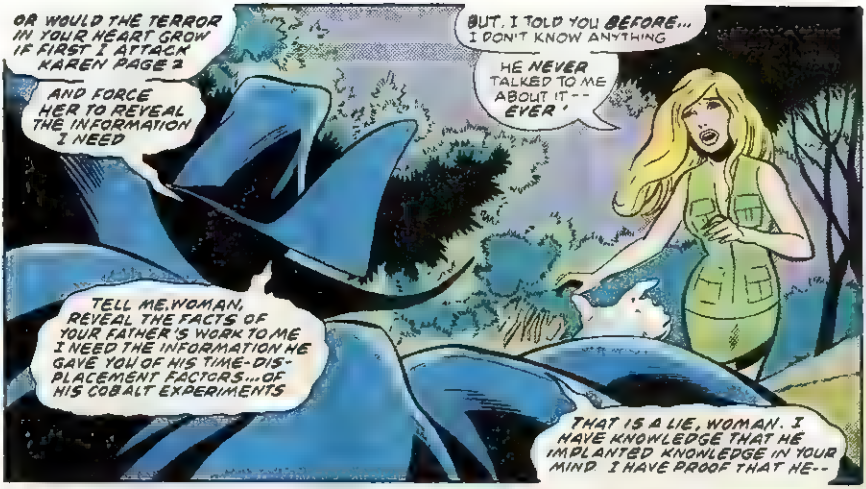
OR WOULD THE TERROR IN YOUR HEART GROW IF FIRST I ATTACK KAREN PAGE 2
AND FORCE HER TO REVEAL THE INFORMATION I NEED
BUT, I TOLD YOU BEFORE... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
HE NEVER TALKED TO ME ABOUT IT-- EVER!
TELL ME, WOMAN, REVEAL THE FACTS OF YOUR FATHER'S WORK TO ME I NEED THE INFORMATION HE GAVE YOU OF HIS TIME-DISPLACEMENT FACTORS... OF HIS COBALT EXPERIMENTS
THAT IS A LIE, WOMAN. I HAVE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE IMPLANTED KNOWLEDGE IN YOUR MIND I HAVE PROOF THAT HE--

YOU HAVE NOTHING, DEATH STALKER! KAREN WENT THROUGH F B I DE-BRIEFING AFTER HER FATHER DIED! *
SHE DOESN'T HAVE THAT KNOWLEDGE, M STER. IT DOESN'T PAY TO THREATEN HER ANYMORE.
THEN I SHALL THREATEN YOU, SCARLET CLOWN. AND MORE THAN THREATEN--
--I SHALL DESTROY YOU!
FWIP!
*DD #57 --MARY

SORRY, BUT THIS SUPERHERO ISN'T READY TO JO N THE CHOIR INVISIBLE JUST YET.
I'VE STILL GOT A FEW GOOD YEARS AHEAD OF ME BEFORE I RETIRE TO HERO-HEAVEN
STAND STILL, CRETIN!

AND MAKE THINGS EASY FOR YOU, DS? TSK, TSK THAT'S A DEFINITE NO-NO!
I'M SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT AS DIFFICULT FOR YOU AS--HEY!
HE'S GONE-- NOTHING UNDER HIS CLOAK!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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VANISH LIKE A GHOST, DAREDEVIL!
FOR THAT IS WHAT I AM, FOOL!
EH, WHAT? BEHIND ME...?
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU ATTEMPTED TO STOP ME? HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU FAILED TO EVEN TOUCH ME?
I CAN NOT BE STOPPED! I CAN NOT BE TOUCHED!
BUT I CAN KILL... AND I WILL KILL YOU!
YOU WILL KILL NO ONE, NOT AS LONG AS THE GHOST RIDER CAN STOP YOU!
BY BURNING THE EVIL FROM YOU WITH MY HELLFIRE!
FWASH!
YOU HAVE ATTACKED THE GHOST RIDER'S FRIENDS ONCE TOO OFTEN, EVIL SPAWN!
AND NONE MAY DARE THAT WITHOUT FEELING THE GHOST RIDER'S WRATH!
RUN, KAREN -- AS FAST AS YOU CAN
THE TWO OF US ARE GOING TO NEED SOME FIGHTING ROOM
THEN LET US TAKE ON THIS EVIL ONE, DAREDEVIL...
LET US COMBINE OUR STRENGTHS AND END HIS EXISTENCE FOREVER
NOW!
BUT, DAREDEVIL, I--
DON'T ARGUE WITH ME, KAREN--NOT NOW!

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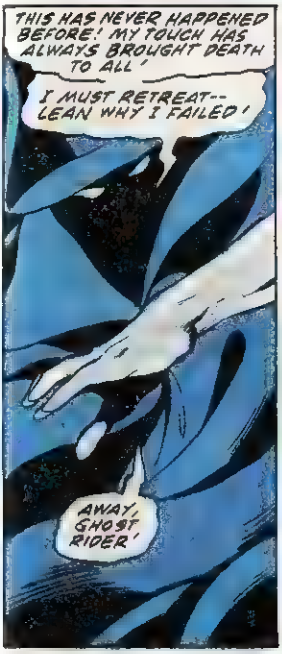
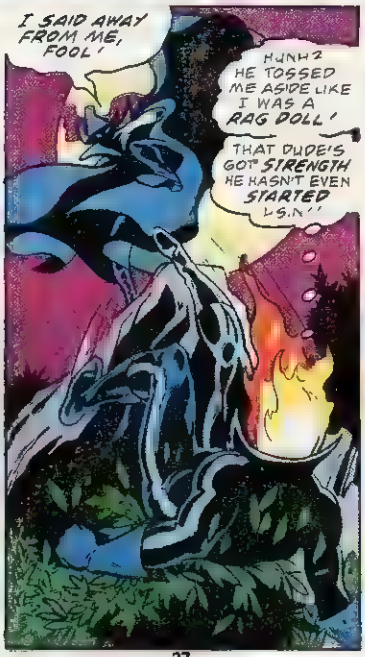
WHAT? I'VE GRABBED YOU WITH MY DEATH GRIP, AND YOU DO NOT DIE?
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? HOW!!
I AM NO MERE MORTAL, TO WITHER AT YOUR TOUCH!
YOU CAN'T DESTROY ME!





HEY, YOU FORGOT ABOUT HORNHEAD, STALKER! AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT DOES TO MY INFERIORITY COMPLEX.
FOOL! I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO END YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE, BUT I STILL CAN TAKE YOURS!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT, DD. WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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A RAGBAG OF RIOTOUS REPARTEE FOR OUR RESPLENDENTLY RAREFIED READERSHIP!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Here it is—the big news we've been promising you. I'm proud and delighted to announce that one of the most skillful and popular writer/editors in comicdom has just been named editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics. I'm referring, of course, to my good friend and fellow bullpenner, none other than amiable Archie Goodwin! I know that our illustrious list of former editors-in-chief, Roy Thomas, Len Wein, Marv Wolfman, and Gerry Conway, who are now busily engaged as senior writer/editors for mixed-up Marvel, join me in wishing Archie fame, fortune, fun, and fortitude as he tackles one of the most demanding jobs in all of comicdom. Of course, ol' Arch has a couple of things goin' for him—he can always count on help from our artful armadillo, not to mention Howard the Duck. Speaking of Hyperbolic Howard, he's sorry he had to miss the magnificent Marvel Con which was held in New York a short time ago. (See how sneakily we manage to change the subject?) But he was probably the only one in Gotham who did miss it. The crowds were unbelievable, the fun indescribable, and the excitement unimaginable. One important note: All of you who saw John Buscema's amazing art lesson at the Con, and want to join his Manhattan comic book art class—please write to him directly at Box 394, East Setauket, NY 11733. He'll personally send you his info-packed brochure, telling you what, where, when, and how much. Something else you might want to know about is the new, exciting Museum of Cartoon Art at 384 Fieldpoint Road, Greenwich, CT 06830. It's the first museum I know of devoted exclusively to comic books, comic strips, panels, etc. If you'd like to join, write them a note and request information—and if you're in the neighborhood, drop in and tell 'em you're a maniacal Marvelite—they'll treat you like a long-lost buddy! And speaking of treatment, I've gotta thank the wonderful guys and gals at West Virginia University, the University of Notre Dame, and Virginia Commonwealth U. for the really sensational treatment I recently received when I brought the "message of Marveldom" to their celebrated campuses. If the world's politicians and heads of state were as friendly, frank, and forward-thinking as the kids I meet at colleges throughout the country, we might really be able to call ourselves a civilization! Anyway, if you're in the Chicago area August 7th and 8th, drop in to the Towers Hotel where I'll be sounding off at the Chicago Comicon on that weekend. If you think these Soapboxes are the pits, wait'll you see how much worse it can be when you have to hear me in person! But, till next time, never hand wrestle with the Hulk—if you beat 'im, he'll probably sulk! Okay, Archie, take it awaaaay.

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! By now, you must have glanced at the lower right-hand corner of the page and glimpsed what's already had the Bullpen bubbling for months. Right! It's time for the most terrific Treasury Edition of them all—2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY. An all-new, all-original adaptation of the MGM Stanley Kubrick movie classic written, drawn, and edited by JACK "King" KIRBY, inked by "Fearless FRANK" GIACOIA, and lettered by JOHN COSTANZA, with mind-boggling color by "Marthful MARIE" SEVERIN and the King himself. From the Dawn of Man sequence to the birth of the Star Child, this bonus-length blockbuster comes to life with the special kind of wonderment that only the artist who brings you CAPT. AMERICA and a thousand and one other comics milestones (including our latest smash, THE ETERNALS) could conceive. If we seem to be thumping the tub a little hard on this one, people, it's only because *we're* so blasted excited about it. But underneath all the heady hyberbole, our message is still basically simple: DON'T MISS IT!

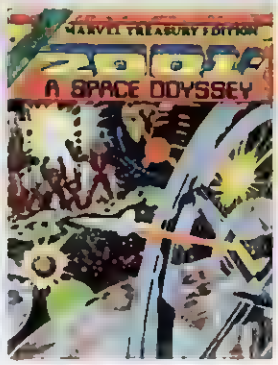
ITEM! With ARCHIE GOODWIN moving to our color line, you might well ask who is taking over editing the black and white magazines he used to handle (and if you don't ask, it blows this whole item). Answer: "Joyful JOHN" WARNER. Assisting John will be a newcomer to the Bullpen," "Reliable RALPH" MACCHIO. Our best wishes to you both, guys. Now about that issue of DOC SAVAGE that's running late...

ITEM! As this is being written, it's Spring—and a young Bullpen's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of softball. Led by Co-Captains "Diamond JIM" NOVAK and "Impish IRENE" VARTANOFF, the Marvel Ten took to the field for the first time this season in an exhibition game with the good folks of Home Box Office, fighting them to a 17-17 draw (No pitchers' duels in *this* league, fans). Can the team that placed 13th out of 16 last year build this auspicious start into a solid first division spot - or are our only superheroes in the *books* we create? Watch this page for further developments, sports freaks.

ITEM! With space at a premium this edition, we'd better ring in our Unabashed Plug Department to group together some items of special interest. Like, two more awesome Annuals coming your way, the GIANT SIZE DAREDEVIL and the equally GIANT-SIZE HULK, both with all-new, novel length stories. And (as long as you're reaching for your wallet) there's MARVEL PREMIERE which features "Wholesome HOWIE" CHAYKIN's decidedly different MONARK, STAR-STALKER; plus MARVEL SPOTLIGHT, which this month illuminates WARRIORS THREE. Since said warriors happen to be Fandral the Dashing, Hogun the Grim, and Volstagg the Voluminous of MIGHTY THOR fame, you *know* that has to mean swashbuckling adventure at its best. And if all that is *still* not enough, MARV WOLFMAN and "Big JOHN" BUSCEMA have a sizzling second issue of NOVA, our newest superstar, all set for your perusal. We may not be doing *everything* you want, Marvelite, but you can't say we aren't *trying*.

Finally, we're closing on a considerably less light note than we normally try to bring to these proceedings. By now, you're aware (perhaps painfully so) that the price of our regular color titles has risen to thirty cents. We didn't want the matter to pass without some explanation. Chiefly, it's due to reasons already much too familiar: inflation and spiraling costs. We held the line as long as possible, even after our competitors raised their prices, but printing, engraving, and paper costs—which we can't control—eventually made the hike inevitable. We're sorry. We don't like it any better than you do, but we have no real choice. One thing we can pledge, however, is that we will work even harder to make Marvel books the most entertaining comics available today...at any price. Being number one doesn't mean we take anything for granted, faithful one... least of all, *you*.

The Bullpen



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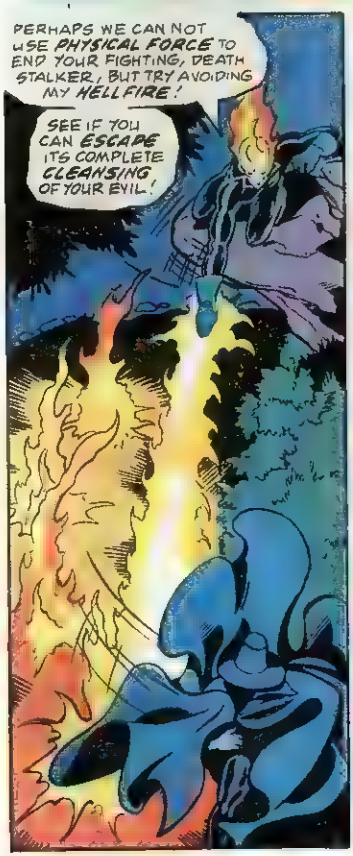
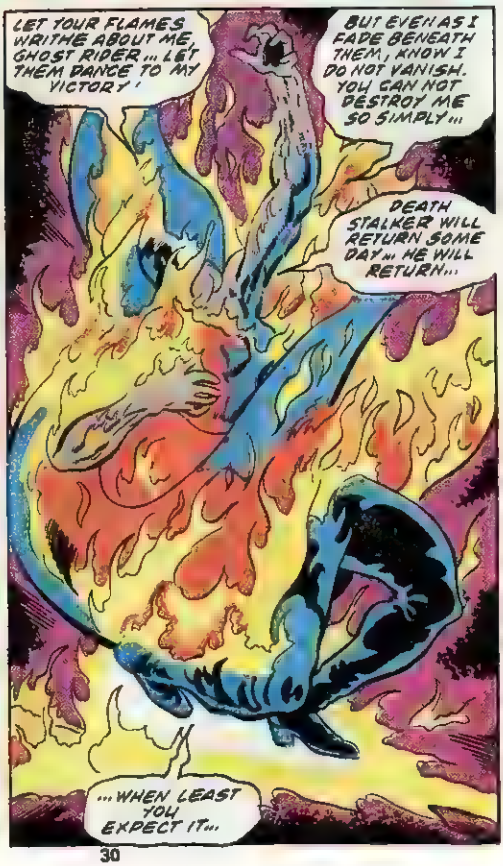
YOU ARE NOTHING COMPARED WITH ME. YOUR POWERS ARE LAUGHABLE WHEN MATCHED WITH MINE!
ATTACK ME ALL YOU WILL, DAREDEVIL, AND YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING!
BUT, SHOULD I TOUCH YOU, YOU WILL DIE. CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY THAT I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO END YOUR LIFE THIS TIME
AND SUFFER WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I CAN RETURN AT ANY TIME AND SNUFF THE LIFE FROM YOU WITH EASE!
HE'S RIGHT... I STILL CAN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP HIM


PERHAPS WE CAN NOT USE PHYSICAL FORCE TO END YOUR FIGHTING, DEATH STALKER, BUT TRY AVOIDING MY HELLFIRE!
SEE IF YOU CAN ESCAPE ITS COMPLETE CLEANSING OF YOUR EVIL!


LET YOUR FLAMES WRITHE ABOUT ME, GHOST RIDER... LET THEM DANCE TO MY VICTORY!
BUT EVEN AS I FADE BENEATH THEM, KNOW I DO NOT VANISH. YOU CAN NOT DESTROY ME SO SIMPLY...
DEATH STALKER WILL RETURN SOME DAY... HE WILL RETURN...
...WHEN LEAST YOU EXPECT IT...

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HE'S GONE, VANISHED WITHIN THE FLAME.
BUT I'VE SEEN HIM DO THAT STUNT BEFORE.
HIS UNIFORM IS CHARRED, BURNT TO A CRISP.
BUT I'M NOT WILLING TO BELIEVE THAT HE'S GONE FOREVER.
SOMEWHERE THE DEATH STALKER STILL WALKS... AND WHEREVER THAT IS MANKIND WILL TREMBLE.
HEAVEN HELP US, FOR HE MAY JUST BE THE ONE VILLAIN ON EARTH THAT CAN NOT BE STOPPED.
BUT HE'S NO LONGER 'ROUND HERE, HORNHEAD, WHICH IS WHY I'M CHANGIN' BACK TO JOHNNY BLAZE.
ALL THIS HAS PROVEN WHAT I KNEW TO BE TRUE IN NEW YORK.
I CAN'T TAKE BEING IN THE CENTER OF THIS SORT OF TROUBLE. I DON'T HAVE THE STAMINA FOR IT ALL.
I'M NOT A SUPER-HERO LIKE YOU TWO ARE. I'M JUST AN ORDINARY PERSON.
YOU WON'T EVER HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN, KAREN. I GUARANTEE IT.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE, DAREDEVIL, WHEN EVEN I CAN'T BE.
HECK, I DON'T WANNA BREAK UP THIS MUTUAL CRYIN' SOCIETY, BUT I'VE GOT A HANKERIN' TA GET BACK INTA TOWN.
AN' I GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE ON MY CYCLE, KAREN.
COMIN'?
GOODBYE, KAREN, AND REMEMBER-- I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE IF YOU NEED ME.
FOR BOTH OUR SAKES, DAREDEVIL, I HOPE I NEVER WILL NEED YOU AGAIN.
I DON'T THINK I COULD SURVIVE ANOTHER MEETING.
TAKE CARE, PARDNER.
MAY YOUR HORNS NEVER WILT, BUDDY.

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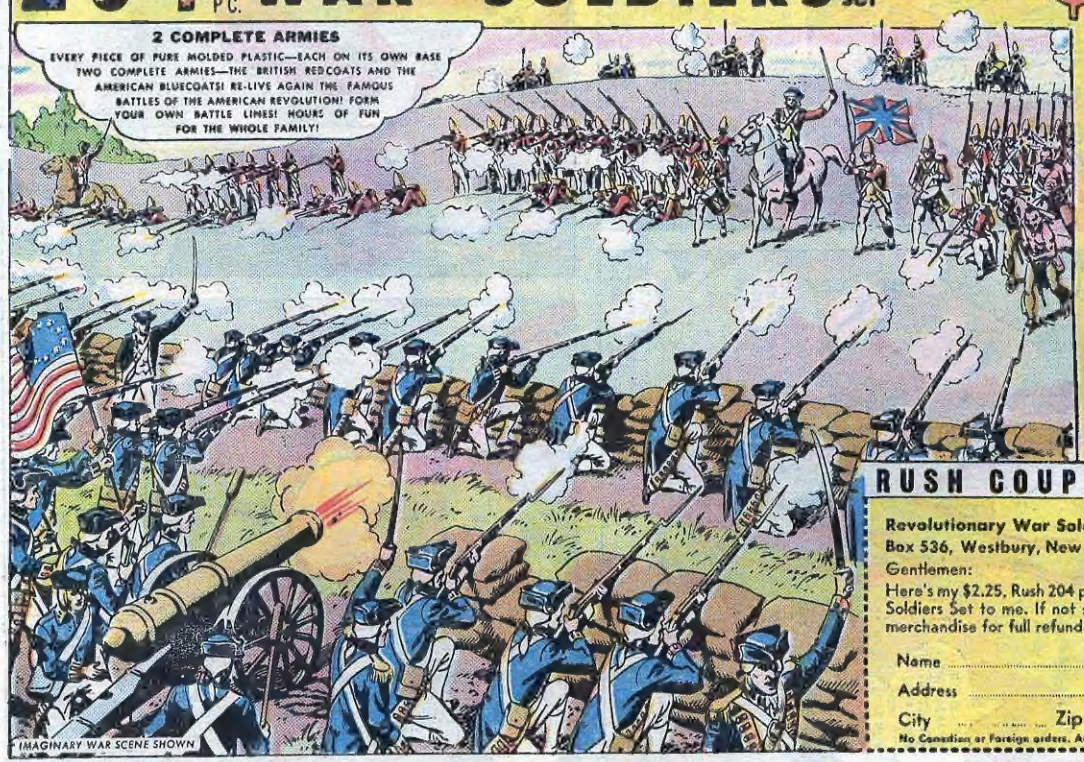

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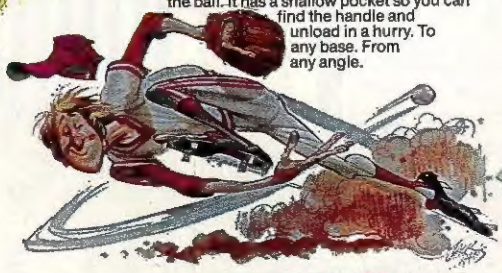

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